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THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

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NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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BIRTHS.

On the 28th June, at the German Consulate, Foochow, the wife of G. SIEMSEN, H.G.M.'s Consul, of a daughter. [1903]

On the 27th June, at 10, Chapoo Road, Shanghai, the wife of J. B. JACK, of a son. On the 27th June, at Lyndhurst, Mount Elizabeth, Singapore, the wife of H. BAKER, of a son.

MARRIAGE.

On the 27th June, at St. Andrew's Cathedral, Singapore, by the Rev. D. Holland Stubbs, Military Chaplain, THOMAS C. B. MILLER, second son of DANIEL MILLER, Fairlie, Scotland, to BESSIE ALFRED HOLDCROFT, eldest daughter of JOSEPH HOLDCROFT, Hanley, Staffordshire.

DEATH.

On the 3rd July, at his residence in London, of pneumonia, JACOB ARNOLD, senior partner of Messrs. Arnold, Karberg & Co., aged 68 years. Deeply regretted. [1903]

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VOEUX ROAD CH. LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

HONGKONG, 7th July, 1903.

Rumours are coming thick and fast from the North now, all proclaiming the imminence of serious trouble between Japan and Russia. Some of the gravest of these stories are worth recording, even though we are unable to judge upon what foundations they rest. The most important is that of a private telegram, dated the 30th June, having been received by a Chinese official in Shanghai from another official in Peking, stating that the special agreement between Russia and China concerning Manchuria was signed at the Chinese capital on the 18th ultimo, the signatories being M. LESSAR and Prince CHING. The telegram added that as soon as the agreement had been signed by the Tsar and the Empress Dowager the "evacuation" of Manchuria by the Russians will begin; the Emperor of China, it is to be noticed, is not mentioned. A second rumour is reported to have been current in Shanghai on the 1st instant, according to which a number of officers and men of the Japanese Reserve, now living in the Settlement, have received orders to rejoin

their regiments in Japan. This is taken to point to Japanese war preparations, as is but natural. Then again a Masampo (Corea) telegram of the 26th ultimo reports the arrival of the Russian cruiser *Rosita* and three torpedo-boats, bringing the Russian force there up to five large warships and seven torpedo-boats. At Port Arthur on the 16th June fifty-seven Russian warships, twenty-three of them of a large size, took part in a review before Admiral ALEXIEFF. This great squadron is all "on the spot," in connection with the Manchurian and Korean questions. It is significant that the acute stage in these questions seems to have been reached at a time when the Russian Pacific fleet is at its record strength, while the British China squadron is temporarily depleted. Doubtless this is a coincidence. From Corea we reported the most serious story on Saturday, that of the anti-Japanese demonstrations at Nansan and Seoul, the result of the attempts on the life of Yi YONG-UK as well, no doubt, as of the previous trouble about the banknotes and the sale of a warship, about both of which affairs we have already given details. The Chemulpo correspondent of the *Shanghai Mercury* gives a clearly pro-Russian account of the agitation in Corea which has culminated in the hostile attitude of a section at least of the Korean populace toward Japan. That correspondent appears impressed with Russia's benevolent conduct. Experience in the past might have taught him whether such benevolence is wont to lead. But we should not be surprised to learn that many Korean statesmen are quite prepared to recognise Russia's friendliness on the same terms as those on which the late LI HUNG-CHANG and other Chinese politicians welcomed Russia's kindness in Manchuria.

The sum of the rumours which we have mentioned above is perhaps only that the feeling of alarm is widely spread in North-East Asia. Nevertheless, such a state of feeling is dangerous, especially because it tends to heighten the effect of any incident, however small, which may arise. The progress of events in Corea particularly must be watched with much anxiety, for an anti-Japanese outbreak there, secretly promoted by Russia, would, as the expression goes, put all the fat in the fire. It is true that the *North-China Daily News* publishes a despatch dated Tokyo, 1st July, to the following effect:—"The Korean Government has ordered the Treasury to pay to the Japanese Embassy half the price of the war steamer purchased in Japan, and 'has also adopted vigorous measures to suppress the anti-banknote agitation. 'Thus the political horizon is cleared at 'Seoul.' The tension of mind in Japan, nevertheless, is very great indeed just now, and it is not only a few extremists who are urging the Government on to a bolder line of policy. It cannot be maintained that the Japanese are wrong in suspecting Russia of attempting now to use Manchuria as a spring-board from which to plunge into Corea. Of course we have often been assured that Russia does not wish to establish herself in Corea. But it has been admitted by Russian writers that their country cannot see the Gulf of Pechili turned into another Baltic by the establishment of a first-class Power on the Korean coast—that Russia must plant herself there first. Such aspirations are incompatible with the peace of North-east Asia. Wherefore it is necessary either that they be renounced or that the question be tested whether Russia is strong enough to realise them. They may not be renounced without an arduous diplomatic struggle, but this struggle it is useful to make to save a war which must be ruinous to one side or the other."

It is stated that the Straits Government will discontinue the Penang tramways at the end of the current year.

A report was current in Shanghai on the 1st inst. that a number of officers and men of the Japanese Reserve living there have received orders to return to Japan to join their regiments.

A New York telegram of the 30th ult. states that the authorities of the Roman Catholic Church have announced that it has been decided to open a seminary in Manila for the instruction and consecration of native priests.

We regret to have to record the death at his residence in London, on the 3rd inst., of Mr. Jacob Arnold, founder and senior partner of the firm of Messrs. Arnold, Karberg & Co., from pneumonia, in his 68th year.

The *Hongkong Telegraph* had a Macao telegram in its issue last evening stating that the Government have received from the Minister of the Colonies notification of the approval of the scheme for the improvement of the harbour of Macao and its approaches. Naturally the inhabitants are jubilant over the news. As is well known, the harbour of Macao has so silted up as to be impracticable for any shipping but that of a very shallow draught.

Mr. Fall, the representative of an American firm of manufacturers, died in Bangkok of typhoid on the 20th ult.

The Yokohama Fire and Transport Insurance Co. made a net profit in the past half-year of 389,937 yen. Of this amount 217,519 yen is carried forward, 125,000 yen distributed in a dividend of 5 per cent. for the half-year, 30,000 yen added to the legal reserve, and 8,427 yen to the special reserve.

Mr. Consul H. F. Brady arrived at Foochow from Shanghai on the 24th ult. by the *ss. Hachin*, after a very rough passage, and assumed charge of H.B.M. Consulate the same day. Mr. M. Hughes, who has been H.B.M. Acting Consul at Foochow since the departure of Mr. Playfair, returns to the Vice-Consulate at Pagoda.

With a view to meet the difficulties attendant upon the "mixed" passenger traffic on Sundays on the Singapore-Kranji Railway, and ameliorate the lot of Europeans who have to travel in the same carriage as a certain class of Chinese, the experiment will be tried of running carriages "for Chinese only," the *Singapore Free Press* says. It seems rather curious that carriages for Europeans only are not tried first.

The *North-China Daily News* states that a private telegram of the 30th June from a Chinese official at Peking to a Chinese official in Shanghai, says that the special agreement re Manchuria was signed at Peking by Prince CHING and M. LESSAR on the 18th, and as soon as it has been ratified by the Tsar and the Empress Dowager of China (the Emperor not being mentioned), the evacuation of Manchuria by Russia will be begun.

The British four-masted steamer *Knight Errant* (Captain Kendall), which arrived here yesterday, completed the entire passage from Barry, Bristol Channel, to this port without a single stop; she travelled via the Cape of Good Hope and Sunda Straits, the distance being 15,083 miles and the time taken 57 days 10 hours 3 minutes. After bunkering, the *Knight Errant*, which has a tonnage of 4,770 tons (not register), will proceed to Port Arthur to discharge her cargo of coal.

Warrants have been executed by the Shanghai Municipal Police for the arrest of certain writers connected with the *Sapao*, a native daily paper in Shanghai, who are charged with having published intolerable criticisms and denunciations of the Throne, and of members of the Government of China and other high officials. It has been agreed that the men shall be tried in the Settlement with a foreign Assessor on the bench, and that any punishment that may possibly be awarded shall be inflicted in the Settlement.

A Chinese sapper in the Submarine Miners fell overboard from the military launch *Soloist* on Sunday night about ten o'clock in the harbour, and was drowned. He had been a deep in a boat swung on the davits, and as he was climbing out he slipped and fell into the harbour. It is supposed that he received a blow on the head from the propeller in falling, for he disappeared at 10 o'clock and was never seen again, although lifelines were promptly thrown and the launch cruised in the vicinity for an hour and a half.

The time occupied by the mails from this homeward by Siberia, says the *N.-C. Daily News*, will be considerably shortened by the new arrangement by which the mails now go in sealed bags to Moscow and are sorted there. The *Mongolia* on Sunday (the 28th ult.) took nine sealed bags from Shanghai to Moscow, where the facilities for sorting are much greater than at Dalny or Port Arthur. The Chinese Eastern Railway Co. contemplate building three more sister-ships to the *Manchuria* and *Mongolia*, which will allow of a through service twice a week between Shanghai and Nagasaki and Dalny, with one steamer always in reserve.

The *Straits Times* writes:—American enterprise is beginning to make itself felt in this part of the world. Shrewd western speculators have their eyes upon the deliquescent Kingdom of Brunei, and the disposal of a large section thereof is—we understand—being negotiated locally. We are further led to believe that the matter does not meet the entire approval of the local government, the disposal of territory within the British sphere of influence to any alien—even though it be a friendly—power not being regarded as a courteous act on the part of an ally. Under the terms of his treaty with Britain, we doubt that the aged Sultan of the remnants of Brunei can dispose of one acre of his territory to a foreign Power, as distinguished from a foreign individual. The situation is, nevertheless, highly interesting for the time being.

H. M. torpedo-boat destroyers *Virago* and *Sparrowhawk* arrived in Shanghai harbour on the morning of the 1st inst., the *N.-C. Daily News* records. These two warships, which are an important addition to the British naval strength in Chinese waters, were launched at Birkenhead in 1893. They are twin-screw and have a length of 210.6 feet, and their beam is 21.7 feet. The draught of each vessel is the exceedingly low one of 5.3 feet. Their displacement is 300 tons and, with an indicated horse power of 6,000, their mean speed is 30.13 knots. Their armament consists of 112-pr. and 56 pr., and they are fitted with two torpedo-tubes. Each ship has a complement of 58 men. They were up two or three months ago on the North American station, at Esquimaux, from which place they were towed to Honolulu by H.M.S. *Amphitrite*, and from there to Japan by H.M.S. *Amphitrite*. During the last few weeks they have been at Weihaiwei, and after coaling at Shanghai will come to Hongkong.

Mr. Lloyd Griscom, the new United States Minister to Tokyo, presented his credentials to the Emperor of Japan on the 22nd ult.

A Peking despatch states that, owing to the desire of Governor Pan Hsin-su, of Chinese Turkestan, to obtain a loan of two million taels for the reorganisation of the territorial army of that province, the Waifu has obtained a loan for that amount from the Russo-Chinese Bank, "without interest." The "consideration" being that whenever the Chinese authorities of Turkestan desire to open mines or cultivate new tracts of country now lying fallow in that province, only Russians should be engaged and no others to assist and teach the Chinese.—*N.-C. Daily News*.

The *Straits Echo* (Penang) says:—Following on the sensational news received regarding the position of affairs in Somaliland, we have to announce that the Malay Guides have been selected for active participation in the coming assertion of rights. Colonel Walker has been officially notified of the intention of Government, and this morning Dr. Jamieson was busily employed in passing for physical competency units of the detachment. It is supposed that 500 men will be embarked for East Africa and the men are highly jubilant with the "Mad" Mullah and his fanatical hordes. It will be remembered that the Guides were disappointed at not being able to take part in the fairly recent Boxer uprising, but their chance has now come, and when necessary they can start in full number, and in good form.

As is well known, says a St. Petersburg correspondent, political prisoners in Russia and Siberia are treated with a rigour and cruelty unknown in any European country, except Turkey. Persons found guilty of conspiring against the Tsar or his Ministers, after being tried in secret, are either banished, exiled in prison, or sentenced to solitary confinement in the dungeons of St. Petersburg or in some remote prison in Siberia, where they are usually never heard of again. The mental sufferings undergone by prisoners who are sentenced to the latter form of punishment are so terrible that they not infrequently go mad, or lay violent hands on themselves. One of the most terrible cases of this kind recently occurred in the prison fortress of Tomsk, in Siberia, where, according to the *St. Petersburg Life*, one of the political prisoners, finding existence intolerable, killed himself by drenching his clothes with petroleum and then setting himself on fire before the warders could come to his assistance.

G.P.O. IMPROVEMENTS.

A much-needed improvement is being made at the Post Office, namely, the introduction of a counter for the sale of stamps in place of the old pigeon-holed windows which formerly served for this purpose. Two doors are being knocked into the wall, one on each side of the letter-box. The counter will have wire netting in front, with pigeon-holes in the approved P.O. fashion; one end will be for the use of Chinese and the other for the use of non-Chinese. The improvement operations should be completed in a day or two.

THE HEALTH OF HONGKONG.

The plague figures took a jump up during the two days ended at noon yesterday, when 13 cases of plague (all Chinese) were notified. Eight were fatal, and three bodies were picked up in the street. The year's cases now stand at 1,312 and the deaths at 1,151. During the week ended 4th inst. there were 25 cases of plague (1 Indian, 24 Chinese), and 18 deaths (all Chinese). No cases of other communicable diseases were reported during this period.

LAWN BOWLS IN HONGKONG.

An interesting innovation was witnessed on the Cricket Ground yesterday evening, when a game of lawn bowls was played by four members of the H.K.C.C. It is hoped that the idea will be taken up in the summer months when the ground is not devoted to any other sporting purpose. The turf was rather lumpy yesterday, but a little rolling after rain would improve it a lot. There is no reason why the game should not become popular; the Kowloon Bowling Club is a distinct success and has a competition now running.

POLO AT THE V.R.C.

What had been looked forward to as the best match in the Polo Shield competition was played off last evening at the Victoria Recreation Club enclosure between teams representing the Hongkong Volunteer Corps and the Young Men's Christian Association. There was a large attendance of spectators when the teams entered the water a few minutes after six. For the Volunteers there played Armstrong, F. D. Bain, Konnett, Herbert, H. A. Lammert, Henderson and Loureiro; while on the other side were J. Miller, the two Wittells, the two Gileys, Cooke and Marty. From the first throw-in to the finish the game was fast and exciting and some very good play was shown on both sides. The Y.M.C.A. opened the scoring within the first minute of the game; and very soon after the re-start Henderson equalised for the V.C. Throughout the remainder of the game each team strove to the utmost to obtain the lead. The Volunteers crossed over with one goal to the good at half-time. Then B. Wittell scored the equaliser, but just a few minutes from time the Volunteers scored another point and retired winners by 3 goals to 2. The two Wittells played a grand game for their side and so also did Cooke and Goalkeeper S. Gidley. On the winning side Bain, Armstrong, and Lammert were prominent. Mr. T. Meek was referee.

TELEGRAMS.

"DAILY PRESS" SERVICE.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

MANILA, 6th July, 12.1 p.m.

U.S. TRANSPORT "SUMNER" ASHORE.

The United States transport *Sumner*, while engaged in distributing troops in Southern Luzon, in the Philippine Islands, struck an uncharted reef and had finally to be beached. Coastwise transport steamers, carrying wrecking parties with salvage plant, left Manila yesterday for the scene of the disaster.

The *Sumner* will in all probability go to Hongkong to be docked for repairs.

REUTERS'S SERVICE.

THE "STANDARD" ON THE MAN-CHURIAN QUESTION.

LONDON, 4th July.

The *Standard* says that the symptoms of a very serious crisis in the foreign relations of Russia are steadily accumulating and Russian statesmen ought to see that Great Britain, the United States, and Japan are becoming tired of Manchuria, which are being so indecently prolonged. At the present time the Russians are confronted with the alternative of a perilous defiance or an undignified surrender.

SOMALILAND.

LONDON, 4th July.

The 27th Punjab Infantry has sailed from Bombay for Somaliland.

It is expected that the strongest military measures will be adopted for the suppression of the Mullah on the arrival of General Egerton.

CORRESPONDENCE.

LOCAL MALARIA FALLACIES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 6th June.

SIR,—I should like to make a few remarks about the local Government's work regarding the crusade against mosquitoes, the prevention of malaria, concerning which one reads so much in the Sanitary Board proceedings as reported in the local papers.

First, of the anopheles species of mosquitoes, which probably alone carries the malarial parasite, the usual habitat is as stated in Dr. Thompson's able report on malaria prevention dated 3rd November, 1900: "Little breaks in the rocky surface by the side of the stream, where the nearest trickles from the stream itself prevent entire stagnation and where there is no through wash of water"; also reported dated 25th October, 1902: "The anopheles mosquito breeds high up in the ravines."

It is obvious from reading the above two extracts that the anopheles, unlike the house-hold pet (or pest) the culex species, prefers clean water for breeding purposes and this cannot be got at the level of the town of Victoria in which everything is filthy, therefore it is very exceptional for an anopheles to reach maturity below the level of say MacDonnell Road. At about this level the training of mullas ceases above and extends below to the sea. The only deduction therefore is that, as is quite often enough the case with Government works, the crusade against the malaria mosquito has been begun at the wrong end and finished at about the spot where it should have been begun in the first place—in other words, a large amount of money has been spent in useless training of the lower end of mullas where the work catches the eye, and no money has been spent on training the mullas at the upper end with the result that the amount of malaria in the Colony has only been decreased to a small extent which can quite be explained by the better knowledge of diagnosis and treatment possessed by the more scientifically trained medical men of the present time. Second, the system of cutting brushwood and other undergrowth in the vicinity of houses is a great mistake and likely instead of diminishing malaria to increase it for the following obvious reasons:—Undergrowth only harbours adult mosquitoes when they require shelter from rain, cold or sun; if this shelter is cut away what will the mosquitoes do? Die? No. They will seek shelter elsewhere. Where? In the houses near, or will they fly away to search for more undergrowth at a distance? Ask the people living in the houses around which undergrowth has been removed and they will tell you that whenever a cutting has taken place the mosquitoes swarm in much greater numbers in their houses until the undergrowth grows again.

Again, what are the deductions to be drawn from the above? 1st. That nearly all training of mullas as carried on at present has been waste of time and money; and, 2nd, That the cutting of undergrowth around houses is worse than useless. I ask you is it not time that the crusade against the malaria fiend be carried on on logical grounds for practical results and not scenic effects.—Yours, etc.,

SENSIBLE SCIENTIST.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, 6th July.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WM. M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

CLAIM AGAINST AN INSURANCE COMPANY. The Kwong Chun Hing firm sued the Hang On Marine and Fire Insurance Co. for \$3,725.42, being amount due upon a policy of insurance. Mr. T. Morgan Phillips, barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. O. B. H. Bevis of Messrs. Wilkinson & Grist, solicitors), appeared for the plaintiffs; and Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. F. B. Deacon of Messrs. Deacon & Hastings, solicitors), was for the defendants.

The plaintiffs in their statement of claim stated that they were interested to the amount of \$5,500 under an open marine policy of insurance made by the defendants, for that amount, dated 23rd June, 1902, on certain perishable goods shipped on board the British steamer *Zafiro*. In the particulars of their claim plaintiffs said that the goods were shipped from Hongkong to Manila. The premium paid to the defendants was \$13.75, being at the rate of 25 cents per \$100. The goods were insured against the perils of the sea. There was a total loss as to part of the goods and constructive total loss as to the remainder. Notice of abandonment was given, shortly after arrival at Manila of the *Zafiro*, by the plaintiffs' representative to the defendants' agent at Manila. After such notice the defendants' agent agreed to take over the damaged goods as a total loss and requested the plaintiffs' representative to dispose of the same on account of the defendant. The goods were accordingly sold, and realised after payment of expenses a net sum of \$2,097.21, leaving a deficit of \$4,402.78, of which amount \$3,725.42 was payable by the defendants. This sum with interest the plaintiffs claimed.

In their statement of defence, defendants as to the first part of the statement of claim admitted that the plaintiffs were interested under the policy of insurance therein mentioned and they admitted the truth of the particulars therein contained concerning the voyage and perils insured against; they admitted also that part of the goods covered by the policy were damaged on the voyage. But the remainder of the goods were delivered to the plaintiffs at Manila (as the defendants believed) sound condition, and the plaintiffs neither gave nor were entitled to give notice of abandonment thereof. As to the second part of the statement of claim, the defendants did not by their agent at Manila or otherwise agree to take over any of the goods nor request the plaintiffs to sell the same on their behalf or at all. Defendants did not know how the plaintiffs dealt with the remainder of the goods aforesaid. The defendants were and always had been ready to pay to the plaintiffs whatever sum was due from them to the plaintiffs, respecting the partial loss of the goods, and the defendants had repeatedly asked the plaintiffs for the account of their claim in that regard, but the plaintiffs had refused to furnish the defendants with such an account. The defendants would now pay the said sum into Court, but by reason of the said refusal they were unable to ascertain the amount thereof. Save as aforesaid, defendants denied all the allegations in the statement of claim. By virtue of an order dated 16th June, 1903, there was added to the defence the statement that by particulars contained in a letter dated 9th June, 1903, and written by the plaintiffs' solicitors to the defendants' solicitors (to which the defendants craved leave to refer), the sum due from the defendant (to the plaintiffs in respect of the said partial loss was shown as nearly \$2,200. On 16th June, 1903, therefore the defendants paid into Court by leave thereof the sum of \$2,200, which the defendants said, was enough to satisfy the plaintiffs' claim.

Mr. Morgan Phillips in opening the case for the plaintiffs said the sole issue in the action was whether or no after the arrival of the *Zafiro* at Manila there was legal abandonment of the cargo to the defendants. On or about 20th June, the *Zafiro* left Hongkong bound for Manila having on board about 314 packages of goods shipped by the plaintiffs to their house at Manila, and these goods were the subject-matter of the insurance policy and of this action.

His Lordship:—By the payment into Court of \$2,200, the only matter between you is \$1,523?

Mr. Morgan Phillips:—Yes.

Mr. Sharp said that that sum had been paid in respect of all the particulars they had yet had; if particulars of yet further partial loss were provided they were prepared to pay it.

His Lordship remarked that with regard to the 195 packages in dispute the insurance company did not deny that there was some damage done to them. They said they did not know how much it was, and the plaintiffs said it did not matter because they gave defendants notice of abandonment and their agents in Manila accepted it although they now said they did not. The only point to settle was whether there had been abandonment or not.

Mr. Morgan Phillips, continuing his address, said that the goods shipped consisted chiefly of food-stuffs. While on her voyage from Hongkong to Manila the *Zafiro* ran ashore on some place in the Philippines. She was damaged, her Nos. 3 and 4 holds were filled with about 10 feet of water and the goods in these holds were very much damaged. She arrived at Manila on 25th June. Soon afterwards part of the cargo was discharged from these holds and it was found to be in such a putrid state that 119 packages were dumped into the sea. As soon as the plaintiffs' agent heard of the accident to the *Zafiro* he went to the defendants and told them that he had certain goods which they had

inspired on the *Zafiro*, giving them a sort of formal notice. Subsequently he went to them and asked what was to be done about these goods. He asked them to take over the goods. Defendants' agent, as the evidence would show, said that he would take over the goods—185 packages—which were still on the *Zafiro* and which were subsequently removed to the Custom House. It took some little time before the goods were lodged in the Custom House. Defendants' agent said he would take these goods over but asked the plaintiffs' representative to sell them on defendants' account, as it was rather out of their line of business to sell goods, and subsequently furnish them with an account. After several interviews defendants' agent agreed to take over the goods and requested plaintiffs' representative to sell them on defendants' account. This was done. On or about 7th August the goods were taken from the Custom House and sold by the plaintiffs on defendants' account and an account was furnished to the defendants by the plaintiffs. Defendants were asked to chop this account. The agent refused to chop it on one or two occasions, saying he required proof of the loss of the goods. Ultimately he signed his chop to a document which was accepted as an admission of abandonment.

Mr. Sharp having replied, His Lordship adjourned the case *sine die* pending settlement by the parties, by reference to some one conversant with marine insurance or otherwise.

The Court adjourned.

POLICE COURT.

Monday, 6th July.

BEFORE MR. J. H. KEMP (ACTING POLICE MAGISTRATE).

BIG GAMBLING RAID.

Chief Detective Inspector Hanson and Detective Sergeant Marston were instrumental in breaking up a big gambling "school" at Shaikwan on Sunday night. Its members, by carefully laid plans, had been able to set Inspector Robertson, the officer in charge of the district, at defiance, and seeing that a successful raid from that end was next to impossible, it was resolved to make an attempt to beat the gamblers by a coup, delivered from the Hongkong side. A party of *lukung* disguised as fishermen, and so on, was despatched, and its members managed to gain entry unsuspected into the gambling-house, where *fantau* was proceeding briskly. By-and-by Chief Detective Inspector Hanson and Detective Sergeant Marston arrived on the scene, having been quickly admitted by the disguised constables. Their entrance caused the greatest alarm and confusion; almost sixty natives were playing *fantau*, and when the two officers appeared they made a simultaneous rush to escape. Twelve were arrested, including an ex-constable who was helping to run the place, and a sum of \$27, besides the usual gambling implements, was confiscated. The defendants were taken to Shaikwan Police Station and charged.

His Worship, after hearing evidence, found all of them guilty. The first four, for being keepers, he fined \$250 each or three months' hard labour, and the others \$7 each or two weeks' hard labour.

THE WRONG MAN.

A marine engineer out of employment pleaded not guilty to assaulting a native on the 1st inst. in Pottinger Street. The complainant, an old man in his dotage, who limped so painfully that he had to be helped into the witness-box by a constable, could not be induced to make the usual declaration, and had to step down without giving evidence.

A married woman and a Chinese had deposed to having seen the old man knocked off the foot-way into the side-channel in Pottinger Street by either the defendant or another European who accompanied him. The complainant became unconscious, and had to be removed subsequently to hospital.

The defendant said it was his friend who knocked the complainant over. When he had done it, the latter called out to the defendant, who was a good way in front—"Look what I've done—I've killed a man." The defendant ran and fetched some whisky for the old man from a neighbouring saloon, and afterwards walked up to the Central Police Station behind the whole party in order to see how it fared with his friend, who had been arrested for causing the complainant's injuries. At the station some people swore that it was the defendant who committed the assault, and he was charged accordingly, while his friend, the real offender, went free.

His Worship was of opinion that the witnesses were mistaken, and he discharged the accused.

HOW AT THE JAPANESE CIRCUS.

At the Japanese circus on Saturday night a big Indian artilleryman wiped the floor with a Japanese wrestler who tried conclusions with him. Afterwards, when the entertainment was over for the night, the gladiators from the Land of Chrysanthemums and a seafaring friend had a discussion on the points of the match. The latter was of opinion that his defeated countryman should have made a better show, and as there were others who held the opposite view the discussion grew warm. In the midst of the sailor's eloquent argument by smacking another man in the mouth with a whisky bottle, inflicting an ugly wound and breaking several teeth. He took to his heels, with the whole mob of almost naked and thoroughly incensed performers after him. Lance-Sergeant Wilson heard the row and took charge of the fleeing man just in time to prevent bloodshed. He was charged with assault and fined \$3, with an additional couple of dollars as compensation to the injured man.

LATE TELEGRAMS.

[VIA SHANGHAI.]

ANTI-JAPANESE FEELING IN COREA.

Tokyo, 29th June. The anti-Japanese party at Seoul is endeavouring to attribute the bomb explosion in the hospital where Yi Yong-ik was lying to Japanese, which, combined with the anti-banknote agitation, and the Korean Government's delay in paying the price of its war-steamers purchased from a Japanese firm, is creating a strained situation.—N.C.D.N.

THE TABUFF QUESTION.

London, 30th June. In a debate on the proposed Tariff Bill the House of Lords, Lord Lansdowne (Foreign Secretary) said it was impossible for the Government not to consider the position threatening us serious. The possible withdrawal of favoured-nation treatment was actually adumbrated in an official document which will shortly be published in a blue book.—N.C.D.N.

THE FRENCH CABINET IN DANGER.

London, 29th June. In the French Chamber M. Combes, the Premier, secured a majority of only sixteen in favour of the rejection of the application of female teaching orders for authorisation, which he made a question of confidence. The speech of M. Waldeck-Rousseau, the late Premier, in which he criticised the legislation of the present Government, on the score of its expense and the irregularity in its enforcement, has created a deep impression being regarded as weakening the prestige of the Government.—N.C.D.N.

Paris, 29th June. The French Senate is at present discussing a project of school construction. M. Waldeck-Rousseau criticised the way in which the Congregations Law has been applied, and notably the rejection *en bloc* of the requests for authorisation.—ECHO DE CHINE.

CURRENCY.

Paris, 29th June. The monetary conferences with the American Commission have been opened. The Americans ask that Indo-China and China shall accept the new system established in the Philippines (making the dollar equal to 30 cents gold).—ECHO DE CHINE.

CHANGES IN RUSSIAN CABINET.

Berlin, 30th June. There is a report from St. Petersburg that the Minister of Finance, M. Witte, will be promoted to be Chancellor and be succeeded by the Marshal of the Nobility, M. Suchomlinow.—O. Lloyd.

STEAMER LOST OFF AFRICA.

Berlin, 30th June. The Woermann steamer *Lulu* Bohlen has foundered on the Liberian coast. All passengers were saved, while the mail and the cargo were lost.—O. Lloyd.

SOVEREIGNS AT PLAY.

London, 1st July. King Edward and the Khedive of Egypt witnessed the racing at Newmarket yesterday, and dined with Sir Ernest Cassel at Moulton Paddocks.—N.C.D.N.

FOLLOWING THE DRUM.

London, 1st July. Mr. Brodrick, War Secretary, said in the House that recruiting is temporarily suspended, in the cavalry mostly and the other arms except the infantry, as the establishments are full.—N.C.D.N.

A FATEFUL MEETING.

Peking, 1st July. M. Lessar has started from here for Port Arthur to meet and confer with General Kuropatkin and M. Pokotiloff. The Diplomatic Body is watching this meeting with deep interest.—N.C.D.N.

[VIA DUTCH INDIES AND MANILA.]

AMSTERDAM, 29th June. The *Morning Leader* reports that a revolutionary committee, with headquarters in Moscow, has issued a manifesto advising the people of Russia to follow the example of the Serbians and wipe out the tyrannical Romanoff dynasty. The manifesto has been circulated throughout Russia in Europe, and has caused a deep impression and much excitement.—BATAVIA NEEBLAD.

NETHERLANDS STEAMSHIP CO.

The Hague, 22nd June. A Bill has been introduced in the Dutch Chamber providing for an increase of the subsidy granted to the Netherlands Steamship Co. It is designed to give the Company an increase of 1,750 guilders for each trip between Guinea and Batavia, and vice-versa, whenever the Company's vessels complete the voyage in two days less than the present contract time.—Deli Courant.

SOMALILAND.

New York, 2nd July. A special despatch from the London *Times* says:—The British forces in Somaliland have again met the Mad Mullah in a prolonged and bloody battle, in which both armies suffered terrible loss of men and officers. When the British came upon the Mullah they found his forces strongly entrenched. Artillery was brought into action, to which the Mullah responded with his guns. For several hours heavy firing was kept up on both sides. Finally the British determined to dislodge the enemy and the cavalry and infantry formed for the onslaught. The Mullah stood his ground well. His artillery and small arms sent a terrific fire into the ranks of the advancing columns and many of the British were moved down by the hail of bullets. The British advanced steadily, however, and finally succeeded in scattering the Mullah's forces. The enemy's loss was about 1,000, while that of the British probably exceeded this number. Several British officers were killed, among them being the following:—Cavalry—Lieutenant-Colonel Hughes and Major Hein; Infantry—Lieutenant-Colonel Whitall, Major Forest, Captain Sichel and Captain Fruit.—Cablenews.

COREAN NEWS.

Chemulpo, 18th June.

THE RUSSIAN GHOST. I have read many telegrams taken from the Japan papers and reproduced by the *Mercury*, but most of what I have read is "rot." The Japanese see a ghost in every corner, and that is a Russian ghost. Behind every tree in the Yalu district they observe the same kind of ghost, and all and every Japanese representative rushes off at once to the authorities and reports the same. The correspondents (Japanese) of the papers are continually on the look-out and every Russian soldier sighted is magnified into a thousand, like the boy who saw thousands and thousands of cats on the tiles, but when bailed down to a point there were only his tom cat and another one. There are a few Japanese merchants in the Yalu district and these, with the connivance of Korean officials, who are frightened they should lose their chance of doing illicit business across the Yalu with the Chinese, mostly in arms and ammunition, report that the Russians who are felling trees are thousands of Russian troops. These Russians are merely a company, who have a proper agreement with the Korean government to fell timber and are guarded by a few Russian soldiers, as the bandits are numerous in that district, and these soldiers do all they can to put a stop to the Chinese purchasing arms and ammunition from the Japanese, and the latter are very much put out about this business being stopped. It is true that there are a number of Russians employed in cutting timber and that there are also a number of Chinese employed by the Russians in this work, as they are far better workmen than the Koreans, and now and then these Chinese buy or steal Russian uniforms and wear them and this is magnified into a fact that the Russians are enlisting Chinese and forming quite an army. Another move is about to be made and there is to be established a CUSTOMS BRANCH ON THE YALU.

It is rather late, but better late than never. Years ago, when Mr. Schoonike was Commissioner of Customs at Chemulpo, the harbour master pointed out in a report that a branch of the Customs should be established there, but it was not done and the Customs has lost many thousands of dollars by not taking his advice, which should have been collected on ginseng, timber, cereals, and grasscloth, while thousands of dollars worth of silk and other valuable goods found their way across the Yalu into Korea. No heed was taken of the harbour master's advice. And why? Because China managed the Customs affairs, and the commissioner was under Chinese pay. Well, matters have now changed and the authorities are more under the control of the Japanese, and to my mind they have jumped out of the frying-pan into the fire. However, it is well that the Koreans are about to establish a custom house on the Yalu. Some knowing ones state that this step is a move of the Japanese, but I do not. I believe the affair is arranged by Russia and Korea, and that it will be a great gain in Korean revenue. But such custom stations must be in charge of at least one European, but to place a Japanese in such a position would mean trouble. But how about Tum-n-Kong? Is there no thought of establishing a revenue station there? I believe there is supposed to be a Korean official for that purpose there, but it means nothing unless an European or American is placed there. A Korean official is not allowed sufficient to find himself in food and consequently there is any amount of roguery going on, and the native official generally manages to save enough to get on. If an European is put in charge it will be beneficial to the Customs revenue.

LADY OM.

It is expected that Lady Om will be made Empress. Many of the head officials are anxious she should become so and I think she will be made Empress at a meeting to be held soon, as the President of that department is in her favour. On his appointment to that office not long ago, he presented her with a small present of 14,000 yen. I expect to have to report her coronation soon, and when it comes off it will be a grand affair.

YI YONG-IK.

The health of Corea's patriot, Yi Yong Ik, has been far from good. No matter what may have been said of him or what he has done, one thing is certain he has been doing much for his country. While he enjoyed good health he did a deal for the advancement of the middle and lower classes and for the interest of Corea in general. The Japanese had a strong suspicion that he was pro-Russian, while the Russians did their best to make a tool of him. It may be he did lean somewhat towards the Boer, thinking it would be more dangerous to offend him than the Land of the Rising Sun, and I think he was right in so doing. But Yi got sick, very sick indeed, and it was thought he would never recover. In fact there is a rumour being spread that he is already dead, but is not believed. In fact I know it is false, although he was reported as having died on the 7th inst. He has certainly had a hard tussle in fighting for life. He became so ill that he allowed a Japanese doctor to attend him, and even took up his quarters at the Japanese Government Hospital, where he pressed favourably.

YI YONG-IK AGAIN.

19th June. Since sending my letter away of yesterday I have learnt that an attempt has been made to murder Yi Yong-ik. As I said he was in the Japanese Government Hospital at Seoul; and the Japanese Minister had guaranteed that his life would be safe, there. He had received every attention and a guard of police was placed there by order of the Minister, to make certain that he would not be molested in any way. What really happened is, someone has tried to blow up the hospital, so as to murder Yi Yong-ik.

It happened on Monday afternoon 12th instant at 2:30 o'clock. It appeared that dynamite was placed under the room where Yi was, and exploded, blowing it to pieces, but fortunately Yi was not hurt at all, and only one of his servants had his shoulder slightly hurt. Just before the explosion, strange to say, the doctor had left him, the policeman in attendance left the same time, which looks rather suspicious.

The affair was at once reported to the Japanese Minister, who appeared at once on the scene, looking rather dejected. Yi, who was fast recovering from his illness, expressed a wish to leave at once, and the Minister provided him with a chair and bearers, and a guard of Japanese police, and Yi was escorted to his own residence in safety. The Emperor hearing of the attempt on Yi's life at once sent a battalion of Palace Guards to keep a watch that no further attempt should be made. The Japanese Press here and at Seoul are trying to persuade the public that it was Koreans who blew the place up, but this is not believed. The Japanese Minister seems very downcast about the affair and so he ought to be, I think.—*Mercury*.

THE JAPANESE PROFESSORS' PROTEST.

The following is a translation, specially made for the *N.C. Daily News*, of the protest sent to the Japanese Government by the seven Professors, Tomoi, Tomizu, Terasa, Takahashi, Nakamura, Kasai, and Onozuka, of the Imperial University, Tokyo:—

Success or failure in the world depends on whether we utilise our opportunities or not. Opportunity taken advantage of can change misfortune into prosperity, while opportunity lost may have just the reverse result. Our diplomacy regarding Far Eastern affairs, since the China-Japanese War, seems to have lost its opportunity several times. For instance, our Government carelessly returned the Liaoting peninsula to China without insisting on the condition that it should not be alienated to any Power, and this is the very cause of the present Manchuria question. If we had opposed Germany, as we could have done with righteousness and effectual power, when she dared to seize Kiaochow Bay, with her insufficient naval force, which neither had any reserve of army, or any naval station in Chinese waters for support, she would have been surely forced to retreat; and if Germany could not take Kiaochow, certainly Russia could have had no pretext to request the lease of Port Arthur and Tientsin.

When the Boxer trouble was over, if the Powers had agreed to stipulate clearly a rule for evacuation to include Manchuria, Russia would have had no pretext to prolong her occupation.

It was our deep regret to see these things, the results of failure to turn opportunities to account.

There will be grave danger to the existence of the State, if our Government overlook the non-fulfilment of its treaty by Russia and submit to temporise with a sluggish policy when Russia is not disposed to evacuate Manchuria though the stipulated time for doing so is past. We must have no more failures, through such opportunities as we lost, first at the return of the Liaoning peninsula, secondly at the time of the Kiaochow seizure, and thirdly when Chihli province was evacuated after the Boxer trouble. The past cannot be overtaken but we must devise a scheme to recover on one side what we have lost on the other; especially must we not forget that the situation in the East is one of increasing danger, and we have no surplussage of opportunities to lose as in the past. We must not forget that if the opportunity is lost now, neither Japan, Corea, or China will be able to lift their head again. The moment is most critical; if we lose it, it will be our irreparable sorrow for ever. And what plan can we set up to our ancestors or how face the judgment of posterity?

It is proved by recent reports that Russia is threatening us by concentrating her naval force in these seas, while she has supplemented the construction of railways, forts, and batteries in Manchuria by an increased army. One day's hesitation increases the danger. Although we refrain from giving away our military secrets, we can congratulate ourselves that our force, compared with Russia's, will be superior for a year from now. If we fail to take advantage of this opportunity our damage will be irreparable for several thousands of years. Although Russia's force is inferior to ours, she is now acting as audaciously and shamelessly as though she were Mistress in the East, by despising treaties, instigating hoarded robbers, sending disguised soldiers into Corea, and devising to get the lease of some important point in Corea. It is needless to say what she intends, when she has assured herself of victory over any antagonist. If she gets a footing in Manchuria, she will surely covet Corea; and when the latter has fallen into her hands, the next step to be taken by her is clear enough.

These are the reasons why we must solve the Manchurian question with a right perception of its roots. At this moment Heaven gives us ample prospect of victory; we have the geographical advantage, while Russia has not yet a stable footing in the East; we have harmony among our people, who are unanimously ready to fight Russia; to neglect the moment is to endanger great achievements of our ancestors and ruin the prosperity of our descendants.

Diplomacy, of course, needs a deliberate consideration, and we must carefully investigate the dispositions of England, the United States, Germany, and France, but the attitudes of these countries are almost plain. That of England will be decided by the interpretation of the

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[38]

Anglo-Japanese agreement, and it is needless therefore to assure ourselves of her disposition since the agreement stipulates that England will keep strict neutrality if Japan fights only one country. Moreover there has been ample occasion to discover her attitude since the 8th April, on which date Russia was to evacuate Manchuria.

The statement that Corea must by no means be put under the influence of any other country would be reasonable, but if we want to protect Corea we must not leave Manchuria in Russian hands. It must be already understood that to place the disputing point in Manchuria would be quite different from placing it in Corea. Russia, of course, seems disposed to locate the question in Corea, with the inference that Manchuria is already in her hands. But the solution of the present Eastern question must involve the keeping intact of Manchuria; if we yield a step to Russia and let her get to China, she will easily go a step further.

After all the Manchurian question should be discussed without reference to Corea. If we yield and restrict our interests in Manchuria in order to get a trifling, nominal interest in Corea the low state of affairs will be worse than the present condition. To discuss the question from the legal standpoint, the evacuation of Manchuria is, needless to say, Russia's duty. This evacuation does not mean the transference of troops from one district to another, but the clearing away of all troops, including the railway guards. The agreement for returning Manchuria stipulates in its second article that: "The Chinese Government agree in recovering the sovereignty and administration over Manchuria to recognise the period of contract and other terms agreed upon with the Russo-Chinese Bank; to protect railways and officials in accordance with the fifth article of the agreement; and also to be responsible for the protection of Russian subjects resident in Manchuria and the safety of their works." And in the fifth article of the agreement with the Russo-Chinese Bank it is stipulated that: "Railways and men on the railway shall be protected by the Chinese Government, who shall make regulations," etc.

It is clear enough then that the Manchurian railway is to be protected in accordance with Chinese regulations, which have never recognised that the railway is to be protected by Russian troops. The meaning of evacuation is, therefore, the clearing away of all troops without exception, and Russia's action in protecting the railway by her own soldiers is not based on the Treaty or the Regulations.

Since Russia avows to this agreement before the witnesses of the foreign Powers, that Power which has close and critical interest in the fulfilment of that duty is entitled to request its fulfilment with firmness. We must resolutely require the evacuation of Manchuria. Although Russian statesmen try to bribe us with homed words we must look at the question from its roots and make no yielding to accept Corea for Manchuria or any such sluggish policy.

We are not arbitrarily insisting on fighting; on the contrary we shall greatly regret if we are remembered hereafter as prophets because things have turned out exactly as we surmised.

The Japanese nation is notified that the existence of the State is threatened if the opportunity given by Heaven is neglected. We shall be committing national suicide if we try to put off the crisis by a sluggish policy. The question must be solved at once.

ARRESTED WHEN EMBARKING FOR HONGKONG.

Manila papers to hand state that Montrose K. Newman has been acquitted by Judge Crossfield of the charge of having the islands with intent to defraud a creditor. The complaint was filed by the California Lumber Company who hold the balance of \$400 of an assigned account against Mr. Newman, which was originally contracted for furniture, in favour of C. K. Zorn. Zorn, it appeared, concluded his part of the contract with reference to the furniture, while Mr. Newman was in Hongkong, recently. Upon his return the lumber company demanded immediate payment, and Mr. Newman, considering the demand rather hastily, awaited the issue of a civil suit for the collection of the account. In the meantime, before the suit came to trial, the retail business of the firm of M. K. Newman and Co. was closed out, for the reason that it did not pay and the wholesale business of the firm was to be enlarged, and in this Mr. Newman retained his interest. It so happened that Mr. Newman explained in detail his business arrangement to his various creditors, all of whom were willing to extend credit, with the exception of the California Lumber Company. Mr. Newman who had made an agreement to represent a local Manila firm in Hongkong, had made arrangements to leave for that port on the 27th by the steamship *Rubi* and his arrest followed.

The statements made by Mr. Newman were corroborated by several witnesses and the court was of the opinion that there had been no attempt to defraud creditors and released the defendant.

LATEST STEAMER MOVEMENTS.

The Imperial German mail steamer *Prausen* left Foochow yesterday, a.m., and may be expected here this evening.

The C.P.B. steamer *Athenia* left Vancouver on the 29th ult., p.m., for Hongkong, via the usual ports of call.

The T.K.K. steamer *Rosetta Maru* left Manila yesterday afternoon, and is expected here tomorrow, at 2 p.m.



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The Tenders to state the total amount (in Pounds Sterling) and the amount for which each Bill should be drawn, but no Bills will be issued for less than £100.

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W. G. S. BENSON, Major, A.D.P., H. M. Treasury Clerk Office, His Majesty's Treasury Office, Fletcher Street, Hongkong, 7th July, 1903. [1947]

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Hongkong, 4th July, 1903. [1924]

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TOTAL FUNDS at 31st DECEMBER, 1902, £16,378,771.

I. AUTHORIZED CAPITAL... £3,000,000 0 0

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL... 2,750,000 0 0

PAID-UP CAPITAL... 887,500 0 0

II. FUND FUNDS... 2,862,275 11 10

The Undersigned, having been appointed AGENTS for the above Company, are prepared to ACCEPT RISKS against FIRE at Current Rates.

SHAW, TOMES & CO., Agents.

Hongkong, 19th June, 1903. [1389]

Estate of MIKHAIL FEDOROVICH PIATKOFF deceased (late of Moscow)

Estate of JACOB MATVEYEVICH MALCHANOFF deceased (late of Moscow).

ANY person or persons having CLAIMS within the jurisdiction of the SUPREME COURT of HONGKONG against either of the above Estates must send in same duly verified to the Undersigned on or before the 30th day of August next after which date the Estates will be wound-up and the Accounts finally closed.

J. W. R. TAYLOR, Administrator.

Hongkong, 2nd July, 1903. [130]

PUBLIC COMPANIES

THE HONGKONG ELECTRIC COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the FOURTEENTH ORDINARY MEETING of the SHAREHOLDERS will be held at the COMPANY'S OFFICES, No. 4, Queen's Buildings, on SATURDAY, the 11th JULY, at 12.30 p.m., for the purpose of presenting the Report of the Directors, together with a Statement of Accounts to 30th April, 1903, and electing Directors and Auditors.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 27th instant to the 11th prox., both days inclusive.

By order of the Board of Directors, GIBB, LIVINGSTON & CO., Agents.

Hongkong, 22nd June, 1903. [1782]

THE CHINA LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY, LIMITED.

司公限有電燈火中

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the CHINA LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY, LIMITED, will be held at the COMPANY'S OFFICES, No. 14, Des Voeux Road Central, Victoria, Hongkong, on MONDAY, the 13th day of JULY, at 11 in the FORENOON, when the subjoined Resolutions which were passed at a meeting held on 27th June, 1903, will be submitted for confirmation as Special Resolutions:—

1. "That the capital of the Company be reduced from \$300,000 (divided into 15,000 shares of \$20 each) to \$150,000 (divided into 15,000 shares of \$10 each) and that such reduction be effected by reducing the nominal amount of all the shares in the Company's capital from \$20 to \$10 per share."

2. "That after such reduction the capital of the Company be increased from \$150,000 (divided into 15,000 shares of \$10 each) to \$300,000 (divided into 30,000 shares of \$10 each) by the creation of 15,000 new shares of \$10 each to be offered and accepted to be allotted to the present shareholders of the Company in the ratio and proportion of one new share for every old share in the Company held by the respective shareholders thereof."

3. "That in consideration of the guarantee and undertaking now given by Messrs. Shaw, Tomes & Co. (the General Managers of the Company) and testified by their signature hereto (and to be further testified by the execution by the said Shaw, Tomes & Co. of a separate instrument of guarantee to be executed contemporaneously with the Debenture referred to and to be held by the Trustees thereof to be appointed as hereinafter mentioned) that the dividend for the years 1903, 1904 and 1905 in respect of the new shares referred to in the second of the preceding resolutions shall not fall below the rate of 6 per centum per annum in each and every one of the said three years the said Shaw, Tomes & Co. as such General Managers as aforesaid be and they hereby are authorized to issue Debentures to the amount of not more than \$200,000 on the property of the Company to be secured by a duly executed Mortgage thereof by the Company to such persons as Trustees for and on behalf of the Debenture holders as the said Shaw, Tomes & Co. may by writing under their hand appoint. The said Debentures to be issued in the shape of Bonds for \$1,000 or \$100 each at the Debenture holders' option respectively, but so that the aggregate of all such Debentures taken together shall not exceed the sum of \$200,000. The Bonds for and in respect of the said Debentures may be issued at a discount not exceeding 25 per cent. on the face value thereof but so that the holders respectively of such Debentures shall not be entitled to be repaid more than the face value thereof. The said Debentures to bear interest at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum to be computed from the date of issue to the date of redemption thereof and to be repayable within 5 years from and after the date of such actual issue in manner following that is to say No portion of the amount paid in respect of any of such Debentures shall be repayable during the first three years following the date of the actual issue thereof but of three years there shall be repaid in respect of each Debenture to such and every holder thereof:—

(a) "One quarter of the amount paid in respect thereof within six calendar months following the expiration of the said period of three years";

(b) "One quarter of the amount paid in respect thereof within twelve calendar months following the expiration of the said period of three years";

(c) "One quarter of the amount paid in respect thereof within eighteen calendar months following the expiration of the said period of three years";

(d) "One quarter of the amount paid in respect thereof within twenty-four calendar months following the expiration of the said period of three years."

SHAW, TOMES & CO., General Managers.

Hongkong, 27th June, 1903. [1856]

TEBRAU PLANTING COMPANY, LIMITED.

司公限有植樹德

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the SEVENTH GENERAL MEETING of SHAREHOLDERS in the above Company will be held in the COMPANY'S OFFICES, 38 and 40, Queen's Road Central, on TUESDAY, 14th JULY, 1903, at Noon, for the purpose of receiving the Report of the General Managers together with a Statement of Accounts for the year ending 30th April, 1903.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 7th to the 21st July, inclusive.

JOHN D. HUMPHREYS & SON, General Managers.

Hongkong, 1st July, 1903. [184]

PROTECT YOUR OWN OLD AGE

You by securing for yourself a guarantee income for LIFE.

DON'T HAVE Protection for your family too if you die.

TO DIE The Continuous Instalment Endowment accomplishes both.

TO WIN THE EQUITABLE.

(HENRY B. HYDE, Founder.)

F. KIENE, Manager.

Hongkong, 1st January, 1901. [23]

AUCTIONS

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned has received instructions from the Hon. Director of PUBLIC WORKS, to Sell by Public Auction, TO-DAY (TUESDAY), the 7th JULY, 1903, at 11 A.M., on the JUNK, moored off the Government Store, Wanchai, A CABLE OF E TYPE.

It has a Copper Wire Core of 7 strands which is surrounded with strong iron armour making a wire rope about 1 1/2 in. diameter. Length a little over 1 mile. Weight about 7 tons.

The Junk containing the Cable will be moored off the Government Store, Wanchai, on MONDAY next, 6th instant, on which date it may be inspected by intending purchasers. Orders for inspection will be issued by the undersigned.

TERMS:—As usual.

HUGHES & HOUGH, Auctioneers to the Government.

Hongkong, 1st July, 1903. [187]

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned has received instructions to Sell by Public Auction, on WEDNESDAY, the 15th JULY, 1903, commencing at 11 A.M., at the Godowns No. 4 & 8, CROSS LANE, Wanchai.

A LARGE AND VARIED ASSORTMENT OF MACHINERY, including:—

MARINE ENGINES, BOILERS, LATHES, SLOTTING and DRILLING MACHINES, &c.

(Further Particulars from Catalogue, now ready.)

On View from 6th July.

TERMS:—Cash on delivery.

GEO. P. LAMBERT, Auctioneer.

Hongkong, 25th June, 1903. [1623]

TO INVESTORS.

FOR SALE in the Peak District several desirable HOUSES and BUNGALOWS.

For Particulars, apply to—TURNER & CO.

Hongkong, 1st July, 1903. [1881]

NOTICE.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, FREDERICK WILLIAM DAWSON, hereby gives notice that I will not be responsible for any Debt contracted by my wife IRENE HARLOW DAWSON, at present staying at the Hongkong Hotel.

All persons giving her Credit do so entirely at their own risk.

FREDERICK WILLIAM DAWSON, Hongkong, 30th June, 1903. [1882]

HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

司公限有銀行匯中

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following Certificates for Shares of the Bank issued in Hongkong in the name of THOMAS CHILD HAYLLAR, No. 75 dated 12th July, 1871 for 2 Shares Nos. 38438 and 38479.

No. 3871 dated 30th Sept. 1871 for 4 Shares Nos. 3882/5.

No. 189 dated 19th Feb. 1872 for 4 Shares Nos. 21955/58.

have been LOST, and should the same not be produced before the 3rd day of August next, Duplicate Certificates will be issued to the said THOMAS CHILD HAYLLAR, and no transaction taking place under the aforesaid Share Certificates, Nos. 75, 3871 and 189, will be recognised by the Corporation.

J. K. M. SMITH, Chief Manager.

Hongkong, 3rd July, 1903. [1919]

WINCHESTER CARABINES

12 SHOT REPEATING CALIBRE 44.

Excellent arm for Travellers in the interior of China as well as Officers of Coast Steamers.

ALSO CARTRIDGES IN STOCK.

LUTGENS, EINSTMANN & CO., 14, DES VOEUX ROAD. [2742]

M. CHADWICK KEW

DENTAL SURGEON.

No. 39, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.

Office Hours—9 A.M. to 5 P.M.

Hongkong, 16th June, 1903. [1721]

EXCURSIONS TO MACAO.

THE fast and commodious Steamship "WING CHAI" will leave her Wharf, opposite Central Market, EVERY SUNDAY (during the Summer months) at 8.30 A.M., returning at 8 p.m., or later.

FARE:—Return Ticket, including Tiffin and Dinner (either on board or at Macao Hotel) \$5.

A matched for sea bathing, both for Ladies and Gentlemen, is provided, and bathing clothes, &c., provided at a reasonable rate.

SAM WANG & CO., LD., Hongkong, 30th June, 1903. [1750]

IMPERIAL BANK OF CHINA.

ESTABLISHED BY IMPERIAL DECREE OF THE 12TH NOVEMBER, 1894.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL, Shanghai Tls. 5,000,000

THE CURRENCY QUESTION IN CHINA.

The Shanghai correspondent of the Times writes as follows on the 5th May:—

For some time past, in fact since the effect of the Boxer indemnity has been realised, the question of introducing the gold standard into China has received the serious attention of native and foreign merchants, and has become a subject of discussion even amongst native officials. If its solution were dependent on the activity or inactivity of the latter, the matter might at once be classed with the open door, the integrity of the empire, educational reform, and all the other pleasant fictions which the mandarin is ever ready to discuss with sympathetic Europeans, so long as nothing is said or done to interfere with its time-honoured privileges. There are indications, however, from more than one quarter, that this question must before long be taken out of the hands of native officialdom; there are too many interests involved in the promotion of China's commercial and financial prosperity to allow the present condition of affairs to be protracted indefinitely.

At a meeting of the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce, held on the 18th ult., the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—

Having in view the fact that silver is subject to violent fluctuations and that China's financial obligations, national and commercial, are now mainly, and in future will probably be entirely, with gold-using countries, this Chamber is of opinion that the Treaty Powers should urge the Chinese Government to take the necessary steps without delay to provide for a uniform national coinage as a first step towards establishing the currency of this country on a gold basis at as early a date as practicable.

The reform to which this resolution refers is one for which the necessity has for long been evident; the Chinese Government has practically admitted the fact by accepting in principle Article II. of Sir James Mackay's treaty, and the United States and Japanese treaties now under discussion contain similar clauses. In the Press, native and foreign, opinion is unanimous that the existing chaotic condition of Chinese currency and finance is in itself sufficient to check progress and to handicap trade; it all sides the necessity for immediate reform is admitted and the weight of public opinion is such that even the *vis inertiae* of the Central Government must eventually feel its effect. Already there are signs of potential mental activity on the subject in the slumberous precincts of the Board of Revenue and the Waiwup; several of the aged classical scholars who control the country's destinies have recently given the matter attention, and there is a hopeful impression abroad that somewhere and somehow an effort is really going to be made to do something. (The position, in fact, is somewhat similar to that of War Office reform in England at the close of the Boer War). The few Chinese officials who have made an intelligent study of the question have realised that this reform, unlike any others, is not one which can begin and end with an Imperial Edict; furthermore, that if anything is to be done it must be done upon strict business principles; finally, that under those conditions, the proposed changes though generally beneficial, hold out little hope of immediate profit for individuals. Looked at from the national point of view and in the light of patriotic theory, the scheme of currency reform is unassailable—without it, the country must continue to be confronted by the prospect of instability and ever-increasing liabilities; yet, from the individual official's standpoint, it is not entirely free from objections. The present system offers the advantages of independent mints—and profits on coinage—in each Vicerealty; of numerous and ever-fluctuating units of currency, creating unlimited opportunities of "squeeze," together with elasticity and intricacy of accounts very dear to the Chinese mind. Under a uniform coinage system much of the interest of life would be lost to the mandarin, while the banker, comprador,

and shroff will naturally resist its introduction to the utmost.

For these reasons, and despite the unmistakable trend of public opinion to which I have alluded, it is improbable that the Chinese Government will move with anything like undiluted haste in the direction of financial and currency reform. There are many conservative ideas and vested interests to be overcome before any practical results can be attained. For instance, there exists a very general belief amongst native officials of the class which abhorred the Boxer rising that a falling and floating exchange, being evidently bad for trade, is a dispensation of Providence, since trade is the chief end and an object of the outer barbarians' existence in China. Kill his trade and the foreigner will go. It is a simple belief, which from its very simplicity appeals strongly to minds untrained to grapple with complex questions; they perceive that the situation created by the fall of silver is perturbing the serenity of European traders, and their attitude in the matter is therefore one of contented expectancy. Again, the provincial authorities, especially those who control their independent mints, may reasonably be expected to oppose any reform which deprives them of profit from this source. Finally, there are to be reckoned with the native bankers, especially the great Shansi guilds, who maintain and control the present complicated machinery of finance throughout the Empire. Discussing recently the currency reform article in Sir James Mackay's treaty, an intelligent native official observed that Edicts might be published and the Board of Revenue might issue instructions to enforce it, but he doubted whether all the authority of Peking could overcome the opposition of the Shansi bankers, in whose hands the country's finances virtually rest. The recent complete dislocation of trade in Tientsin, resulting from the Viceroy Yuan's well-meant attempt to amend the methods of the native banks, has demonstrated the power of resistance latent in their widely-extended organisation and the difficulties which lie in the path of the currency reformer.

Nevertheless, the mass is undoubtedly moving. A first cause is to be found in the increased burden which the country's gold debt has imposed on the Central Government; between the date of the protocol (September, 1901) and the end of 1902 China's liabilities were augmented by over 20 per cent., due simply to the fall in the value of the metal in which the country's revenues are collected. The abstract injustice of the situation requires no comment; the people of China have done nothing to deserve this further addition to their punishment, nor could they by any means have prevented it. Any other Government but the Chinese would long since have recognised the present gravity and future dangers of such a situation and would have taken immediate steps to remedy it; even the Waiwup feels that something must be done, and accordingly its intelligence and energies are directed in the first instance towards regulating the protocol. A further step, in conformity with the traditions of Celestial procedure, has therefore been taken in despatching that special mission to the Osaka Exhibition shall study and report on the question of introducing the gold standard into China on lines similar to those successfully adopted by the Japanese. Any one acquainted with Prince Tsai Chen, Na Tung, and the other native personages who represent China at this exhibition will appreciate the value of the forthcoming report. It will probably not make its appearance till next year, a fact which no doubt appeals to the Waiwup; the interval represents so much time gained during which the matter may rest in

that condition of indefinite theory which commands itself to the Chinese official mind, and in the meanwhile there is always the possibility that "something may turn up." Meanwhile, an edict of April 23 directs Prince Ching and Chu Hung-chi, in conjunction with the Board of Revenue, to devise measures for the establishment of a central mint at the capital whereto "a sufficient quantity of coins shall be struck for distribution throughout the Empire, which may be used by the people in payment of taxes, *lekin*, &c." Last matters should move too rapidly it is further decreed that "when the Prince, Minister, and Board have drawn up a report they shall await the Imperial instructions in this matter."

As indicating the value of the advice which the Government may expect from Chu Hung-chi, President of the Waiwup, it is useful to bear in mind that this is the official who, upon the conclusion of Sir James Mackay's negotiations, drafted the Imperial edict summarily abolishing *lekin*—a decree which was subsequently amended. It will be observed that the present edict apparently anticipates that *lekin* will continue undisturbed.

To the foreign merchant in China the currency question is one of immediate and serious concern. Not only with the steady fall of silver have his income, investments, and savings greatly depreciated in value, but the sudden and violent fluctuations to which exchange is subject invest his trade generally with a speculative element which perforce curtails operations. To the ordinary chances and changes of the market is added the over-present risk of exchange, converting business operations into gambling transactions wherein neither expert opinion can guide nor caution protect the trader. Within the past week the value of the *tael* at Shanghai has risen from 2s. 2½d. to 2s. 4½d.—about 8 per cent.—and an equally rapid fall in the near future is not improbable. Legitimate trade under such conditions becomes impossible.

Under existing circumstances, and with the burden of heavy foreign loans to be faced, China, to reach a sound financial state, should be able to show a considerable balance of trade in her favour, for evidently, unless exports largely exceed imports, she must incur a constant drain of funds by exporting bullion. It was generally expected in 1902 that, following upon the heavy fall in silver, China's exports would be greatly stimulated; also that her imports must be curtailed. So far neither of these predictions has been justified, nor has silver been shipped to any considerable extent; but so many are the unaccountable factors which affect Chinese trade and finance, so unreliable is the official information on many points immediately affecting the whole question, that it is unsafe even to hazard an opinion as to the real meaning of recent statistics. Two things are certain—namely, that exports show no sign of expansion, and that the constant fear of a fall in exchange affects the balance of trade adversely in various ways. In the first place it causes the foreign exchange banks to postpone and curtail shipments of silver to China and induces them to reduce their cash balances as much as possible; it discourages the investment of sterling capital in the country and leads foreigners in China to remit their savings for investment in Europe. These facts have an immediate effect on the balance of trade, and the withdrawal of capital in particular produces serious results. The country's finances are now passing through a necessary period of adjustment, which inevitably hampers trade, and the situation is one which no half-measures can alleviate; it is liable to re-occur indefinitely so long as unstable exchange conditions continue. The more enlightened class of native officials and merchants perceive that foreign capital and foreign methods are necessary if the country is to be saved from insolvency, bankruptcy and chaos, and they realise also that if salvation of this kind is to be forthcoming the introduction of national uniform currency is a matter of urgent necessity as a step preliminary to the establishment of the gold standard in China. It is recognised that since the United States have abandoned the free coinage of silver, and as one country after another has discarded the white metal for gold, China's difficulties have become intensified. To quote a statement made by Sir David Barbour in his Indian Budget speech in 1893, permanently applicable in China to-day, "The financial

position for the coming year is at the mercy of exchange and of those who have it in their power to affect in any way the price of silver." China's financial position is none the better for the fact that she knows nothing of Budgets or financial matters, but in other respects it bears every feature of resemblance to that which led the Government of India to close the mints and to re-establish the rupee upon a fixed sterling basis in 1893.

Many views on the subject have during the past year been expressed from platforms and in the Press, much advice has been tendered to the seven sleepers of the Peking State Department, from which may be deduced a very general consensus of opinion that China in reforming her finances should follow the example of India rather than that of Japan. The resources and general condition of the empire render inadvisable any immediate attempt to establish, with borrowed capital, a gold coinage and a gold reserve, whereas the establishment of a gold standard of value without a gold currency appears to be a matter of practical politics, providing a way out of the present impasse without radical disturbances of existing conditions.

A very able essay on the subject has recently been published in the columns of a Tientsin journal and reissued as a pamphlet; its author makes definite and practical suggestions which have attracted favourable notice. He proposes the gradual introduction—within a period of three years—of the desired reforms; he recognises the fact that the position of China as compared to that of India in 1893, while similar in many respects, is affected by the lack of energy and strength in the central Government. He considers that, as a first step, the Government must recognise that stability of exchange is essential to the country's financial prosperity; next that existing vested interests should be considered. The native banks, in particular, should be reassured by arrangements which would not deprive them of their rights and monopolies. Opposition from the foreign exchange banks is naturally to be expected, since their large profits are mainly derived from the present methods of finance—methods in many instances diametrically opposed to the Chinese Government's interests.

Briefly stated, the scheme proposed is as follows:—

First year.—Establishment of a national bank, with head office at Shanghai; this bank to mint exclusively a new uniform "tael" coinage and to issue notes against reserves of the same; to handle the Government's balances, &c. Its directors, advised by foreign experts, to be directly responsible to the Board of Revenue. Its inspecting officers to be appointed by the Inspector-General of Customs to examine its books and cash reserves. For a period of two years the present "sycee" currency to be exchangeable for new tael coinage or notes on demand; its circulation thereafter to be illegal. The new coinage to be recognised as legal tender by Imperial edict.

Second year.—Prohibition of minting of "sycee" currency and of importation of dollars; the latter to be exchangeable for "tael" coinage during a period of six months; their circulation thereafter illegal.

Third year.—Prohibition of import of silver. The rate of exchange of "tael" coinage to be fixed at, say, eight taels equal £1 sterling. The profits on minting to be held as a gold reserve by the bank and not to form part of the Government's ordinary revenues. A "China office" to be opened in London and New York for the sale of drafts on China.

It appears probable that either the Chinese Government will take early action of its own initiative and in its own interest, or that the Powers interested will confer in regard to China's finances and currency. Until quite recently the native official has shown no intelligent interest in the matter, but of late, under the stern hand of adversity, his education has advanced rapidly. The Government now fully appreciates and desires the payment of Customs duties on a gold basis, although not so ready to recognise the necessity of any effort to obtain it honestly. It has also realised that in India to-day coins of an intrinsic value of 7½d. are circulating freely and maintaining a stable exchange value of 1s. 3d., and the idea is gaining ground that what the Government of India has done China can attempt to do.

STYLISH DRESSMAKING.

COSTUMES MADE UP IN ALL THE LATEST FASHIONS OF PARIS, LONDON, AND NEW YORK.

EXPERIENCED EUROPEAN CUTTING AND GENERAL SUPERVISION.

EVERY KIND OF GARMENT MADE FOR LADIES AND CHILDREN.

W. M. POWELL, LD.

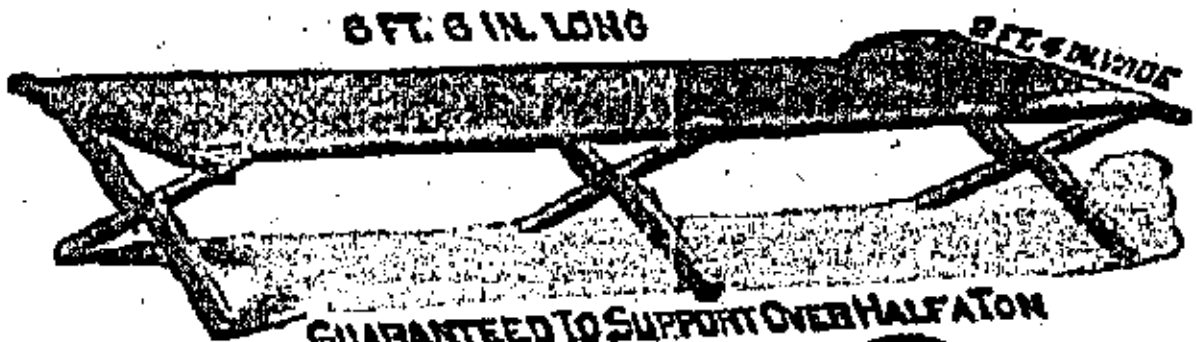
HIGH CLASS DRAPERS,

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LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

FOLDING CANVAS CAMP BEDSTEDS

THE MOST PORTABLE CAMP BED-STEAD EVER MADE.



\$10 each.

THIN TROPICAL BLANKETS, \$3.50 EACH.

A NECESSITY AND A LUXURY FOR THE SUMMER.

LAMBERT & BUTLER'S

FRONTIER MIXTURE.

A PIPE TOBACCO.

FRONTIER MIXTURE IS A COMBINATION OF THE CHOICEST TOBACCO GROWN.

A GENTLEMAN'S SMOKE. ASK YOUR DEALER FOR THIS BRAND.

TO BE OBTAINED FROM—

MESSRS. KRUSE & CO.

IN 1-LB. AIR-TIGHT TINS.

NOBEL-GLASGOW EXPLOSIVES.

DYNAMITE,

GELATINE-DYNAMITE,

BLASTING GELATINE AND GELIGNITE,

DETONATORS, SAFETY FUSE,

AND ALL BLASTING ACCESSORIES.

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HONGKONG, SHANGHAI, WEIHWAI.

AGENTS—

JARDINE, MATHESON & CO.

UNTOUCHED BY HAND.
MELLIN'S FOOD
For INFANTS and INVALIDS.
MELLIN'S FOOD is free from Starch
When prepared is similar to Breast Milk.
MELLIN'S FOOD WORKS, PECKHAM, LONDON, ENGLAND.

LARGEST SALE OF ANY DENTIFRICE.
CALVERT'S CARBOLIC Tooth Powder.

A unique and efficacious preparation for cleansing the teeth and strengthening the gums.
F. C. CALVERT & Co., Manchester, Eng.

NO LONGER THAN YOUR HAND is the spot in your back directly affected by lumbago. But it is big enough to prostrate you until a kind friend rubs Porey Davis' Painkiller into your aching flesh. Then the throbbing pain, which has been as bad as toothache, dies away. Painkiller is equally good in relieving sciatica and the various forms of rheumatism.

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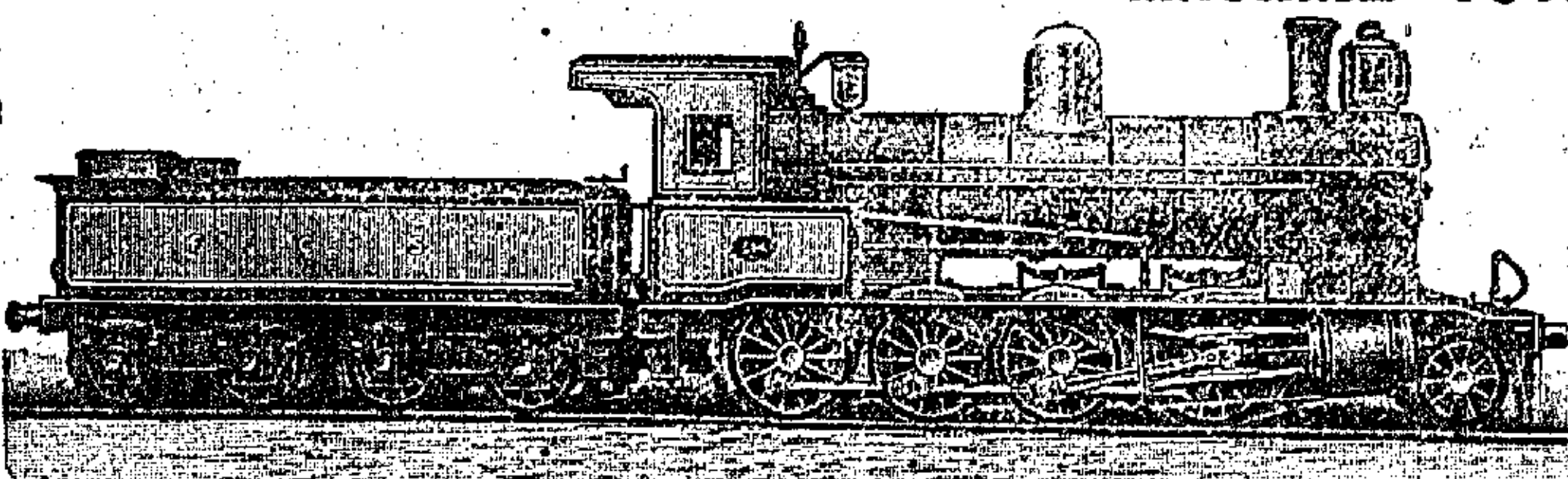
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ALL TOOLS ELECTRICALLY DRIVEN IF REQUIRED.

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N. INUZUKA, Manager, Hongkong.

